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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,474	08/19/2005	Robert Farrer Gilmour	07EW-119688	8913
30764 7590 08/09/2007 SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP 333 SOUTH HOPE STREET 48TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-1448			EXAMINER JACKSON, BRANDON LEE	
			ART UNIT 3772	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/506,474

Applicant(s)

GILMOUR, ROBERT FARRER

Examiner

Brandon Jackson

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3772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-11 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6-11, and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to arguments/arguments filed 6/18/2007. Currently, claims 2-3, 5, and 12-13 have been cancelled and claims 1, 4, 6-11, and 14 are pending in the instant application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/18/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the Gilmour device does not disclose a stud formed as a unitary construction, however claim 1 is an apparatus claim, therefore how the stud is formed does not affect patentability of the apparatus as a whole. The Gilmour stud and chafe is a unit after the stud is bonded with the chafe and, therefore, is interpreted as a unitary constructed apparatus. Applicant further argues there would be no motivation to combine the Plath and Coy references with Gilmour because of different subject matter; however, it is the position of the examiner that they all define similar matter. Plath and Coy references teach locking mechanism comprising studs and slots, which similarly solve the problem of locking a device much like the Gilmour device.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the “,” after “having” should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gilmour (U.S. Patent 6,155,998). Gilmour discloses a chafe (30) comprising a slot (37) therein, a stud (35), and a connection means (33) connecting the stud (35) and the slot (37). The connection means (33), slot (37), and stud (35) are formed of a unitary construction. The stud (35) has an enlarged head. A walker frame (1) has a at least one set of apertures (31), wherein each set has at least two apertures therein (fig. 1), formed to allow the stud (35) to pass through to be optionally held or released therefrom (fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

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2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilmour (U.S. Patent 6,155,998) in view of Plath (U.S. Patent 5,311,972). Gilmour substantially discloses the claimed invention; see claims 6 and 7 rejections above. Gilmour discloses a walker having a set of apertures (upper 31) and a slot (lower 31) corresponding to each aperture (upper 31). Gilmour fails to disclose that the aperture has a wider lower part and a narrower upper end so the stud can pass through the lower part and retained by the upper end. However, Plath teaches a stud (19) that passes through the lower part (32) and is secured by a narrower upper end (33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the chafe to have lower apertures of the walker frame having the Plath design, to secure the chafe to the frame because it holds the chafe in place so it does not move during ambulation, resulting in movement of the foot within the walker.

Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilmour (U.S. Patent 6,155,998) and Plath (U.S. Patent 5,311,972) in view of Coy (U.S. Patent 5,836,626). Gilmour/Plath substantially disclose the claimed invention, see claim 6-8 and 9-10 rejections above; Gilmour/Plath fails to disclose a walker having a slot wherein the upper edge is a saw tooth pattern that can retain the stud head. The saw tooth pattern accomplished no stated problem and provides no specified advantage; therefore, it is a mere design consideration. Coy teaches a slot (22) with an upper edge (21) having a saw toothed pattern. It would have been obvious to modify

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the Gilmour/Plath walker to include a slot (lower 31) of Gilmour/Plath in a saw toothed pattern as taught by Coy because is an effective way to quickly secure a device that fits between the notches of the saw toothed pattern.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Jackson whose telephone number is (571)272-3414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on (571)272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Brandon Jackson
Examiner
Art Unit 3772

BLJ


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